

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims 12 to 14, cancel claim 4 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 3 and 9 as follows:

1.(currently amended) An article with an easily cleaned surface coating that is heat-resistant at temperatures of at least 300°C, has outstanding properties and a thickness between 1 and 1000 nm;

wherein said surface coating contains a metal oxide network and a hydrophobic substance, said hydrophobic substance being distributed uniformly throughout the metal oxide network and across said thickness of said surface coating; and

wherein said surface coating is hydrophobic and has a contact angle for water of greater than 90°; and

wherein said hydrophobic substance comprises at least one pre-condensed fluoroalkylsilane formed by hydrolysis of at least one fluoroalkylsilane at temperatures under 60°C.

2.(original) The article as defined in claim 1, further comprising a supporting substrate selected from the group consisting of glass, glass ceramic, metal, ceramic, plastic and laminated material, and wherein said surface coating is provided on said supporting substrate.

3.(currently amended) The article as defined in claim 2, wherein said surface coating is provided on a surface of said supporting substrate to be coated, after activation of said surface of said supporting substrate ~~to be coated~~ and/or after applying at least one or more suitable primers to said surface of said supporting substrate ~~to be coated~~.

Claim 4.(canceled)

5.(original) The article as defined in claim 1, wherein said surface coating comprises a plurality of nanoscale particles.

6.(original) The article as defined in claim 1, wherein said surface coating is optically inconspicuous.

7.(original) The article as defined in claim 1, wherein said surface coating is heat-resistant up to temperatures of 400°C.

8.(original) The article as defined in claim 1, wherein said thickness of said surface coating is from 10 to 250 nm.

9.(currently amended) The article as defined in claim 1, further comprising an additional protective layer for said surface coating, and wherein said additional

protective layer comprises an enamel and/or decorative or functional printing with ceramic or organic decorative paint.

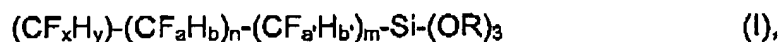
10.(original) The article as defined in claim 1, consisting of a cooking appliance and/or components for said cooking appliance.

11.(original) The article as defined in claim 1, consisting of at least one of a baking oven, a cooking range, a microwave unit, a grill, an exhaust vapor hood with associated operating unit, a mixer, a blender, a food processor, a cooking vessel, a baking sheet and/or a baking pan.

12.(new). The article as defined in claim 9, wherein said additional protective layer comprises decorative or functional printing and said decorative or functional printing is made with ceramic or organic decorative paint.

13.(new) The article as defined in claim 1, further comprising an additional protective layer for said surface coating, and wherein said additional protective layer comprises decorative or functional printing and said decorative or functional printing is made with ceramic or organic decorative paint.

14.(new) The article as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one fluoroalkylsilane is a silane compound of the formula (I):



wherein x is 1, 2 or 3 and $x+y = 3$, a and a' is 0, 1 or 2 and $a + b$ and $a' + b' = 2$ and n and m , independently of each other, are integers from 0 to 20 and $n + m < 30$; and wherein R is a straight chain, branched, saturated or unsaturated C_1 - to C_8 -alkyl group optionally containing a heteroatom.